

EXHIBIT 3  
DATE 2/21/07  
HB 710



Gallatin County Chapter  
P.O. Box 11002  
Bozeman, MT 59719-1002

February 21, 2007

Dear House Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of MADD of Gallatin County, we strongly support HB 710 and ask that you pass this important piece of legislation.

Drunk driving is a serious crime. Montana currently has the highest percentage of drunk driving fatalities – indicating that we simply have to be doing more. Allowing people who are convicted of second and subsequent offenses to avoid hard jail time sends the wrong message to those who drive under the influence, to the victims and survivors of this crime and to the citizens of our state. As law makers, you can take an important step in defining this as the violent yet totally preventable crime that it is.

In addition, jail time is often cited as the primary motivation for people to seek treatment. People are less willing to confront problem behavior when punishment is not swift and strong. Deferred sentences and community service are not deterrents to crime. Complacency around drunk driving in Montana can no longer be tolerated.

We ask that you give this bill careful consideration. This is a very important step in communicating the value of public safety in our state.

Sincerely,

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